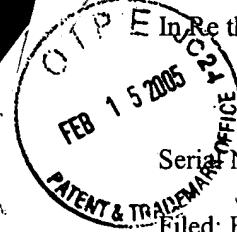


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IFW



In Re the Application of:  
RITLAND  
Serial No.: 10/776,094  
Filed: February 10, 2004  
Atty. File No.: 4510-1-DIV  
For: "POLYAXIAL CONNECTION  
DEVICE AND METHOD"

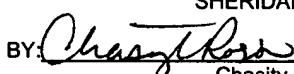
**Mail Stop: Amendments**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 3732  
Examiner: PHILOGENE, Pedro

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE  
ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O.  
BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313 ON THIS 9 DAY OF  
February, 2005.

BY:   
Chasity C. Rossum

Sir:

The references cited on attached Form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner.

Copies of the cited foreign patents and/or non-patent references are enclosed herewith.  
 Copies of the cited U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed

in accordance with the waiver dated July 11, 2003, whereby patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after June 30, 2003 need not submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications.

Are not enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), because the references were submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.  
 To the best of applicants' belief, the pertinence of the foreign-language references are believed to be summarized in the attached English abstracts and in the figures, although applicants do not necessarily vouch for the accuracy of the translation.

Examiner's attention is directed to the following co-pending application(s) for which priority is not being claimed (copies foreign application were provided in a previous IDS):

Serial No. 10/262,574 filed September 30, 2002 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-6)  
 Serial No. 10/788,172 filed February 25, 2004 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-6-CIP)  
 Serial No. 10/371,317 filed February 20, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-7)  
 Serial No. 10/406,895 filed April 4, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9)  
 Serial No. 10/435,330 filed May 8, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9-2)  
 Serial No. PCT/US03/05086 filed February 20, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-7-PCT)  
 Serial No. PCT/US2004/010277 filed April 2, 2004 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9-PCT)  
 Serial No. PCT/US2004/005751 filed February 25, 2004 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-6-CIP-PCT)  
 Serial No. PCT/US03/14615 filed May 8, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9-2-PCT)

Examiner's attention is directed to the following co-pending application(s), to which the current application claims priority, copies of at least the claims for such pending application are provided or have been provided:

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_ (Atty. Dckt. No. \_\_\_\_\_)

Submission of the above information is not intended as an admission that any item is citable under the statutes or rules to support a rejection, that any item disclosed represents analogous art, or that those skilled in the art would refer to or recognize the pertinence of any reference without the benefit of hindsight, nor should an inference be drawn as to the pertinence of the references based on the order in which they are presented. Submission of this statement should not be taken as an indication that a search has been conducted, or that no better art exists.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and the references made of record therein.

#### FEES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>37 CFR 1.97(b):</b> No fee is believed due in connection with this submission, because the information disclosure statement submitted herewith satisfies one of the following conditions ("X" indicates satisfaction):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d), or</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 or</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114.</li></ul> <p>Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>37 CFR 1.97(c):</b> The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after all the above conditions (37 CFR 1.97(b)), but before the mailing date of one of the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113 or</li><li>(2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, or</li><li>(3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.</li></ol> <p>This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> A Certification (below) as specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e). Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970.</li></ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$180.00 for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>37 CFR 1.97(d):</b> This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> This information Disclosure Statement includes a Certification (below) as specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)</li></ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Applicants hereby requests consideration of the reference(s) disclosed herein. Enclosed is the fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.</li></ul> <p>Election to pay the fee should not be taken as an indication that applicant(s) cannot execute a certification.</p>

**Certification (37 C.F.R. 1.97(e))**  
(Applicable only if checked)

The undersigned certifies that:

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

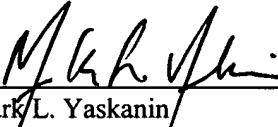
A copy of the communication from the foreign patent office is enclosed.

OR

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS, P.C.

By: 

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Date: 2-9-2005  
J:\4510\1\div\IDS-03.wpd



SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 4510-1-DIV	SERIAL NO. 10/776,094
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT RITLAND	
		FILING DATE February 10, 2004	GROUP ART

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROP.
	1	2003/0171749	9/11/2003	Le Couedic et al.	606	61	
	2	6,551,320	4/22/2003	Lieberman	606	61	
	3	2002/0120270	8/29/2002	Trieu et al.	606	61	
	4	2002/0068975	6/6/2002	Teitelbaum et al.	623	17.11	
	5	6,267,764	7/31/2001	Elberg	606	61	
	6	6,248,106	6/19/2001	Ferree	606	61	
	7	5,591,235	1/7/1997	Kuslich	606	61	
	8	5,030,220	7/9/1991	Howland	606	61	
	9	4,041,939	8/16/1977	Hall	606	61	

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES
							NO

#### OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.